

July 1, 2013

Copp Board of Overseers

Special Meeting Monday, July 1, 2013, Copp Park, Groton/Spicer House, Noank

The special meeting was called to order at 3:37 PM by Chairman Brown at the parking lot for the Copp Family Park in Groton.

Overseers present were Neil Brown, James Sherrard, Andrew Halsey, Allyn Copp, and Dom Venditti.

Also present was Mark Berry, Director of Parks and Recreation and John Silsby, Chairman of the Groton Parks Foundation.

Amidst a rainy and heavy mosquito environment, the group conducted their annual “walk” of the Copp Family Park. The emphasis was on an assessment of the existing trails system within the park, the condition of the newly created events field, the status of the homestead area, and potential assess to the park through the Gray Rock State Park facility which is adjacent to our park on its easterly side along Route 184.

There was no motions made or other business conducted during the site walk. The site walk ended at 4:45 pm and the special meeting was adjourned to be continued at the Spicer House in Noank.

The special meeting was reconvened at 6 pm at the Spicer House in Noank, with only the five Copp Park Overseers present.

The overseers reviewed their individual assessment of the park from the earlier site walk. It was the consensus of the group to request that the Parks and Recreation Maintenance Crew use wider mower extensions to better define the walking path leading to the homestead area. There is no existing pathway into the park from the Gray Rock facility, there are wet marshy areas adjacent to that facility, and there would be potential security/trash/parking issues – so the overseers would not pursue a tie-in at this time.

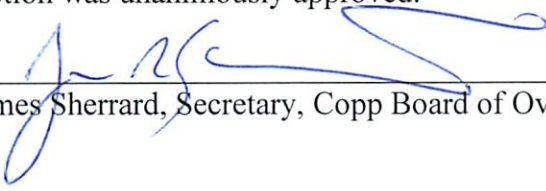
It was noted that Groton Utilities had still not erected their signage at the park, although overseer approval was given earlier. The improvements to the internal trails system, utilizing state funds, will increase park usage by the public and should improve the very rough and uneven walkway into the park from the existing parking lot.

Chairman Brown conducted a brief discussion of the established committees with volunteer committee chairs: Project Tracking – Andrew Halsey; Liaison with Government Agencies – James Sherrard; Nominating – Allyn Copp; and Budget – Dom Venditti.

Dom Venditti presented his view of future Budget Committee activities. Since all park maintenance is provided by the Parks and Recreation Department of the Town, our Chair

will directly interact with Mark Berry, the Parks and Recreation Chair on all needed maintenance issues, such as frequency of field mowing, etc. We will also continue to work with Mark Berry in presenting an annual CIP (Capital Improvement Plan) budget item for major park improvements. Dom Venditti will research possible state and federal grant opportunities and James Sherrard will research possible local funding – Bodenwein and Loomis Palmer Funds – for park improvements. Possible federal/state/local funding support opportunities will be presented at the September Overseer meeting. The need to update resumes for each of the Copp Board overseers was discussed.

The next Copp Board of Overseers meeting will be on Wednesday, September 4, 2013 at the Spicer House. There being no further business for this special meeting – Dom Venditti and James Sherrard moved and seconded a motion to adjourn at 6:58 pm. The motion was unanimously approved.



James Sherrard, Secretary, Copp Board of Overseers

Minutes have been approved and accepted.



Signature

Date